

Blues face stern test against Monza

WYCOMBE Wanderers have the chance to add a glistening £3,000 trophy to their silverware tomorrow (Wednesday) when they stage the return leg in the Anglo-Italian Semi-professional Competition against A.C. Monza at Loakes Park.

But anyone presuming this second leg is a formality for the home side, could be in for a surprise. After the first game in Monza a fortnight ago, Wycombe players and officials alike were full of admiration for the Monza team. Few of the Wanderers had faced a side with more skill and they considered themselves a trifle fortunate to get away with a 1-0 defeat.

Although Wanderers had a few chances in Italy, they admitted they were on the run in the first half, during which Monza scored the only goal through Ugo Tossetto. The ball control of the Italians was particularly impressive and their support play caused the Blues no-end of trouble.

The outcome of tomorrow's game could well depend on what attitude the Italians take. They could decide to defend that 1-0 first leg lead and play for breakaways, but one would hope they go for all out attack. Whatever policy they choose, Wycombe fans will have a good opportunity to see the skills of Italians.

A 4,000 crowd watched the game in Monza and Wanderers officials are hoping for a similar figure at Loakes Park. There are still stand seats available and those who wish to watch from the stand should use the top two turnstiles.

Monza will not be short of support on the night. The match has attracted the interests of Italian communities in Aylesbury, Wycombe and Bedford and 80 Monza supporters are making the trip over.

The Monza players and officials arrive at London Airport today (Tuesday) and will be met by Wycombe Wanderers and Rothmans Isthmian League officials. The squad will train in London tomorrow before the game while the club's officials will lunch with the Wanderers committee men at Gerrards Cross. A gift of a silver dish will be presented to Monza from the club.

President of the Anglo-Italian Competition Mr. Ugo Cestani will present the trophy to the winning sides after the game and will also present the players with their winners and losers medals. Altogether £4,000 has been spent on the prizes. A reception for players and officials is being held afterwards.

Among the guests at the game will be former F.I.F.A. president Sir Stanley Rous, who is also a vice-president of Wycombe Wanderers.

Owing to the travelling expenses involved in these prestige games, Wanderers have had to cover themselves through local businesses and treasurer Roger Lee reports an excellent response from local firms. A list of contributors is in a special souvenir programme for the match which includes 20 photographs.

Both sides are able to use any

two of five substitutes which means John Delaney is likely to return to the side with Dave Bullock substitute as cover for the goalkeeper's position. Delaney's amateur international experience against continental clubs will serve him in good stead.

Under the rules of the competition extra time will be played if the scores are level

after 90 minutes. If still level after extra time, away goals will count double and if still level then, a penalty competition will take place with five players taking penalties from each side and if all are converted, the players go on until one is missed.

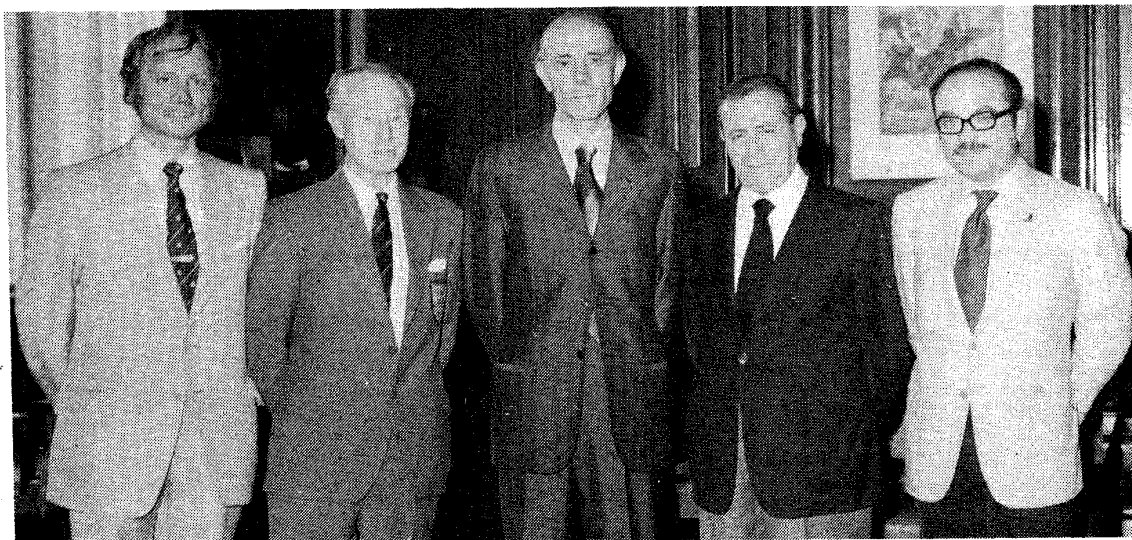
All in all, it promises to be a highly entertaining evening at Loakes Park tomorrow. Gates open at 6.30 p.m.

ROTHMANS ISTHMIAN LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	CD
Enfield	13	9	2	2	30	10	29	20
Hendon	13	8	5	0	23	7	29	00
L'head	15	7	3	5	25	27	24	20
Sutton	11	7	2	2	26	8	23	10
Dulwich	12	7	2	3	22	9	23	04
Hitchin	15	6	5	4	17	15	23	00
Slough	14	5	6	3	20	16	21	40
Ilford	14	6	3	5	15	15	21	60
Wycombe	13	6	2	5	13	14	20	10
Tooting	12	5	4	3	19	14	19	20
Dagenham	12	5	4	3	22	21	19	20
Barking	10	5	3	2	13	10	18	30
Bishops	15	5	3	7	18	20	18	00
Hayes	12	4	4	4	16	15	16	10
Kings	11	4	2	5	18	24	14	10
Oxford	13	3	4	6	8	18	13	10
Staines	11	3	3	5	14	12	12	00
Southall	9	3	2	4	15	16	11	10
W'stow A	11	3	2	6	14	19	11	60
L'stone	13	1	4	8	12	24	7	30
Woking	12	1	1	10	11	25	4	50
Clapton	11	0	0	11	2	34	0	10



A.C. Monza pictured before an Italian league match this season. Back row (from left to right) Peressin, Capozucca, Fasoli, Vincanzi, Colombo. Front row: Gamba, Sala, Oliva, Tosetto, Sanseverino, Buriani.



Some of the officials who met before the first leg in Monza.